



United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service



PACIFIC SOUTHWEST REGION

Restoring, Enhancing and Sustaining Forests in California, Hawaii and the Pacific Islands

Sierra National Forest

Hite Cove Four wheel Drive Route Bass Lake Ranger District

The Hite Cove Road can be reached from State Highway 49, 14 miles west of Mariposa (or 16 miles east of Oakhurst) at the intersection of Triangle Road. Travel Triangle Road five miles and turn north on to Jerseydale Road. Two miles beyond Jerseydale Guard Station, the pavement ends at a fork in the road. Keep to the right on road 3S02 for 2.3 miles to the top of the four wheel drive road. The road is 2 1/2 miles in length and has three segments. From the top of the ridge where the road starts to side slope to the first switchback, is the steepest and most difficult. Two vehicles meeting head-on may result in one driver backing up as much as a half mile to a safe turnout. After the first switchback the road changes character and the turnouts are closer together.

From the switchback to Nutmeg Gulch, where the bridge has washed out, the creek bottom is negotiable but presents a challenge in crossing. The third segment runs along the river to Hite Cove and is a two-wheel drive road with hard base and no major problems.

The 2 1/2 mile road drops 2,100 feet in elevation, from 3,900 to 1,800 feet. Camping areas are beside the road at the bottom of the canyon along the South Fork of the Merced River. The road follows the river downstream another 1.4 miles and ends at the water's edge.

RESTRICTIONS

The Hite Cove Four Wheel Drive Road is seasonally closed from early November through June or until the road has dried out. Call ahead to the Bass Lake Ranger District, 559-877-2218 ext 0, to inquire of road conditions. High fire danger may also require closures during the summer. For maps on this area, please refer to the Motor Vehicle Use Maps; available at all Forest Service Offices.

FIRE DANGER

Fire danger at Hite Cove is extreme during summer months due to high temperatures, low humidity, low elevation, evening winds and highly flammable vegetation.

Campfire permits are required.

During periods of high fire danger only propane stoves are allowed or might be prohibited; check information stations for current fire danger information.

Campfires are limited to gas or propane stoves, hibachis and metal barbecues with briquettes **only**. Briquettes need to be extinguished by dumping into a pail of water and mixing thoroughly until completely cold. Smoke **only** in camping and posted day-use areas.

Sierra National Forest
Bass Lake Ranger District
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North Fork, CA 93643
559-877-2218 ext. 0
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